U.S. Army 2010 in Pictures

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e Picatinny V

At first town hall, ARDEC leader underscores materiel enterprise

Melendez praises strong community involvement at Picatinny

BY TRACY ROBILLARD

Picatinny Public Affairs

There was standing room only as hundreds of employees from the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) gathered in the Lindner Conference Center Dec. 15 for the first town hall meeting hosted by their new leader.

After starting his new role at Picatinny this past summer, ARDEC Director Dr. Gerardo Melendez greeted the workforce, explained his organizational observations and goals, answered questions from employees and presented a slew of awards to high-achieving scientists.

The meeting was one of many the new director plans to hold for ARDEC. Additionally, he emphasized his open door policy, saying that any employee with questions or concerns is welcome to come see him. In fact, Melendez will establish a weekly time Fridays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. for any employees to stop by his office.

Among Melendez's goals for ARDEC

was to continue Picatinny's rich and varied involvement with the community.

"We have the strongest sense of community here that I've seen in any other organizations," he said, referencing the Haunted House (where he admitted playing the role of lead zombie one night) and the Frog Falls Aquatic Park partnership with Rockaway Township and neighboring boroughs.

"It has been an eye-opener, that even though we are a defense installation doing work that is considered dangerous and classified in some instances, that we can open up to the community and have them take part with us in some of our extracurricular activities," he said.

Melendez also emphasized ARDEC's enterprise processes and best practices as building blocks toward a "materiel enterprise.'

"Weapons, energetics, fire control and logistics—all those missions need to work together to create a set of capabilities for the warfighter," he said. "For that reason, we have to work as an enterprise. We have processes and best practices in place to help us achieve that. This idea of the enterprise within ARDEC is one that I'm going to continue to push and foster, and I will use whatever tools I have available to push it even further."

He referenced the "three-legged stool" partnership between ARDEC, the Program his first town hall meeting. Executive Office for Ammunition (PEO Ammo) and the Joint Munitions and Lethality (JM&L) Lifecycle Management Command—all

headquartered at Picatinny and all valuable organizations to the lifecycle of the Army's ammunition. "To you it may seem like that's the norm, but I can tell you in my experi-

ences that it's not," he told the assembled employees. "In many of my previous jobs, that relationship wasn't quite there. What



Photo by Todd Mozes

ARDEC Director Dr. Gerardo Melendez presides over

that created was an inability on the R&Dside to have an open discussion on some issues that might have been resolved a lot faster or with fewer consequences if we had that relationship.'

Because of ARDEC's close relationships with PEO Ammo and the JM&L, Melendez strives to transform ARDEC's ammunition capability into the "poster child" for the Army's materiel enterprise

See TOWN HALL, Page 4



Picatinny Arsenal resident Nancy Lind is the wine expert in a group of friends featured in a recent Cooking Channel special. Courtesy photo.

Cooking, collaboration and cable TV

BY AUDRA CALLOWAY

Picatinny Public Affairs

Military spouse Nancy Lind recently made her first television appearance during a culinary special featured on the Cooking Channel.

The special, called The Four Coursemen, follows Lind and five of her friends on a road-trip through southern Georgia, where they visit farms and farmers markets, learn about local foods and then create a five-course meal based on the ingredients they purchased.

Lind visits Georgia once or twice a month to rejoin the Four Coursemen, travelling from her home in New Jersey. In May, she married Army Maj. Michael Lind, the executive officer to Picatinny's commanding general.

Describing the Cooking Channel program, Lind said, "We explore and learn our way through Georgia, gathering ingredients.

"We get pig from one farm, arugula from another farm, beans from a farmers market.

And then we get back to the house in Athens, write a menu and create a dinner. The show follows us from the menu inception, to learning about the ingredients to actually making

Using the gathered ingredients, the group cooked southern specialties like Braised Pig Ears, Boiled Peanut Mash, Green Apple Sorbet and Radish Vinaigrette.

"There was no (camera) direction, we just did what we do, and I think they captured us really well."

Lind said she hardly noticed the camera operators during the taping, which might be because The Four Coursemen are accustomed to preparing unique recipes before an audience.

The Four Coursemen are actually six friends who came together about four years ago and started an "underground" supper club. Two nights a month, approximately 30 people visit a

See COOKING, Page 2

Cooking comrades share knowledge on cable TV Winter warning:

Continued from Page 1

home in Athens, Ga., to watch them prepare—and then help them eat—a five-course meal.

"An underground supper club is a dinner that takes place in a private residence," Lind said. "And we're creating challenging foods, technically restaurant-quality food. We don't make any money, it's just a hobby. We're not quite a dinner party, but we're definitely not a restaurant.

"We like to try to do new things with food and wine, never do the same things twice and challenge ourselves," she said of the recipes served at the supper club gatherings.

As a sommelier (wine expert), Lind's main role in The Four Coursemen is to pair the wine--and sometimes mixed drinks and beer--with the meals.

"The guys, for the most part, create the menu," she said of her five male counterparts.

"But just like everything with The Four Coursemen, I get to contribute to the menu. Particularly when they're not sure what direction, or what way to go, I can sometimes influence where the menu is going. Just like the guys sometimes have ideas about what wine or beers they want to use, and that will influence me. So the whole thing is collaborative."

Various factors come into play when pairing a wine with a meal

"Most people think it's all about the color – red wine goes with dark meat and white wine goes with light meat. But that's really not the best distinction," Lind noted.

To choose the perfect wine for a meal, Lind said the most important things to consider are:

- Regional appropriateness Choose a wine from the same region from which the food originated.
- Alcohol by volume Select wine with a higher alcohol content for more robust dishes, and wine with less alcohol for simpler fare.
- Texture Use varying textures, such as pairing a cold wine with a hot soup.

"But to be honest, I think the most important thing about wine is that it's only as good as the company you're drinking it with," she added.

Just like attendees at the underground supper club, The Four Coursemen hope people walk away from the television special knowing that local and organic foods are easily obtained.



Army Maj. Michael Lind, the executive officer to Picatinny's commanding general, married his wife Nancy in May 2010 when he was a captian. She has been learning and adjusting to military life. Courtesy photo.

"We're normal people. We shop at the typical grocery store and eat fast food too," she said. "We just want people to think about using local ingredients or visiting their local farmers market. It's just about trying new foods and trying new wine."

Lind's cooking with friends remains an integral part of her life, yet she is also still learning about the Army lifestyle arising from her marriage in May. "It's a very cool community, because everyone is so tight knit," Lind said of the Army. "The military life is an experience that not everyone has and it's incredibly unique. I understand now why it's so nice to have a community that really understands everything about being in the military."

Maj. Lind has been supportive of his wife's efforts.

"Tim really proud of Nancy's work, and the great things The Four Coursemen are accomplishing," Lind said. "Nancy pairs wines and food perfectly, and I think she's a perfect pairing for me, and the Army Family."

The Four Coursemen special aired throughout November and December and the day after New Year's Day.

Winter warning: black ice threatens

Installation Safety Office

Colder weather driving conditions are here and this can be tricky for even the most experienced drivers. While a snow-covered road can be an obvious driving hazard, a road that just looks wet can also be deceivingly slippery and contain "black ice."

Melted snow or ice that refreezes may still look deceivingly like a dry road. Temperatures don't have to be below freezing for black ice to develop. Black ice can be virtually invisible. Keep an eye out for pavement that is slightly darker and looks a little duller than the rest of the road surface.

The Picatinny Installation Safety Office has compiled driving safety tips regarding black ice:

- 1. Slow down. Different vehicles react differently to wet and icy conditions While it may be a natural instinct to slam on your brakes, antilock brake systems react differently than older non-anti-lock brake systems.
- 2. Leave plenty of space between your vehicle and the other vehicles on the road. When driving in black ice road conditions, stay well behind the vehicle in front of you (at least a few hundred feet, depending on your speed). Be prepared if other vehicles start to slide, especially vehicles travelling in the opposite direction that can slide onto your side of the road.
- 3. Look for trouble spots ahead. If you suspect black ice ahead (if you see vehicles ahead of you sliding, for example), downshift to a lower gear before you come onto the black ice. Jamming on the brakes may cause you to slide.
- 4. As soon as your vehicle begins to slide on black ice, take your foot off the gas pedal.
- 5. If your vehicle does begin to skid on the ice, turn the wheel in the direction of the skid. This should help to steer your vehicle back on the right track.
- 6. Don't think you're immune to the hazards of black ice just because you drive a truck or a sports utility vehicle.

While 4-wheel drive vehicles are great for driving in heavy snow, you're at major risk when it comes to driving on black ice.

THE PICATINNY VOICE



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https://www.pica.army.mil/eVoice

PM-CAS reflects on past year's accomplishments

BY AUDRA CALLOWAY

Picatinny Public Affairs

As 2010 came to a close, leaders of Project Manager Combat Ammunition Systems highlighted the past year's successes during a Dec. 15 all-hands meeting and awards ceremony at the Cannon Gates Catering and Conference Center.

"We all know we're working hard, but we don't always realize what we've collectively done for the warfighters," said Col. Scott Turner, the Project Manager Combat Ammunition Systems, adding that reviewing the past year's actions will inspire organization members to delve into the work that awaits them in the future.

Some of the accomplishments he highlighted included the fielding of the M326 Mortar Stowage Kits and the 155mm M1066 Infrared Illumination Projectile

The M326 Mortar Stowage Kits make it easier for Soldiers to quickly set-up and take down the M120 120-mm mortar systems.

The M1066 Infrared Illumination Projectile significantly enhances the Army's ability to conduct covert night time operations.

PM-CAS employees also delivered more than 660,000 mortar rounds, 382,000 artillery projectiles, 21,000 artillery fuzes, 5 million charges and cartridges, and 368 Excalibur precision rounds to the Army.

"If someone had told me at the beginning of the year that we would accomplish everything that we've accomplished – I'm not sure I would have believed them," Turner said of the more than 450 contract actions PM-CAS awarded in 2010. "It takes everybody to make PM-CAS work, so thanks to everyone."

While the entire PM-CAS group has been integral to this year's operations, during the meeting Turner and Rene Kiebler, Deputy PM CAS, honored three individuals for their exceptional work throughout 2010.

Professional of the Year:

Marianne Shuster was recognized for serving as the Procuring Contracting Officer for the Office of Project Manager Combat Ammunition Systems on the Excalibur precision artillery round and Precision Guidance Kit programs.

She solicited program requirements, communicated effectively with industry partners, analyzed proposals and negotiated fair and reasonable prices, meeting PM's

program objectives and award schedules. The process involved resolving contractual issues, incorporating risk reductions, supporting Excalibur 1b award and down-select decisions, negotiating a complex PGK license agreement, providing contract type guidance for PGK corrective actions and preserving contract not-toexceed prices on the PGK Engineering and Manufacturing Development program.

Army qualifying new

insensitive explosive IMX-101 for use in artillery rounds.

Through Patel's hard work and dedication to performance, schedule and cost, IMX-101 was approved as the first safer and effective replacement for TNT explosive in artillery.

This decision is expected to revolutionize the way military ordnance is stored and transported and therefore save lives. IMX-101 will be included in all future production of 155mm M795 and M1122 projectiles, and qualification is under way for the 105mm M1 projectile.

IMX-101 was named one of "The 50 Best Inventions of 2010" by TIME Magazine.

Leader of the Year:

Marty Moratz led the Conventional Ammunition Division (CAD) in planning and executing more than \$800 million dollars worth of indirect fire ammunition.

He personally led the CAD in planning for and producing more than one million artillery rounds and mortar cartridges, and more than 1.3 million 155mm MACS charges.

Under his leadership, the CAD organization has also increased the capability of Soldiers and Marines by



 ${\bf Engineer} \quad {\bf of} \quad {\bf the} \ \ {\bf YEAR\,END\,RECOGNITION:} \ {\bf From\,left}, \\ {\bf Rene\,Kiebler, Deputy\,Project\,Manager\,for\,Combat}$ Ammunition Systems; Marianne Shuster, PM-CAS Professional of the Year; Charlie Charlie Patel's ef- Patel, PM-CAS Engineer of the Year; Marty Moratz, PM-CAS Leader of the Year; and forts resulted in the Col. Scott Turner, Project Manager Combat Ammunition Systems.

> achieving Full Material Release of the 155mm M1066 IR Illumination round; the 105mm M1064 IR Illumination round; and Type Classification Standard of the 155mm M1122 Training round.

> Through his commitment to the mission, CAD is implementing an Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contract strategy that will afford the Army sufficient production capacity and flexibility to address any surge in ammunition requirements for years to come.

> Moratz was the chief architect in developing the 155mm M483 re-use program, which reuses existing M483 cargo carrying shell bodies and replaces the existing dual-purpose improved conventional munitions payload with updated mission specific payloads.

> The first successful example of this approach is the M1122 Training round which provides more realistic training for Soldiers and saves about \$70 per round.

> In addition, Moratz has been the driving force behind four key quality initiatives implemented within CAD that are improving the way ammunition is planned, produced and delivered.





BACK AT YOU: The Picatinny Table Tennis Club hosted an exhibition of table tennis skills Dec. 29 at the Forge Fitness Center. Above, far left in first photo, Jack Lam, rated a master player by the U.S. Table Tennis Association, was on hand to discuss playing techniques and provide demonstrations. Photos by Todd Mozes.

Looking Back ... At Picatinny



BY PATRICK J. OWENS

ARDEC Historian

The language that snow inspires in most Picatinnyans is probably unsuitable to a family newspaper. However, the sight of a snow-covered bridge on the golf course moved an anonymous 1930s employee to poetry.

The attached photo appeared in the Ordnance Bomb, the yearbook the arsenal produced in 1937.

Under it were the words:

Where hastening feet were wont to go O'er the bridge from tee to

White silence now; beneath the snow

Rests the summer that has

Community Recreation Branch

The Community Recreation "Take Off" Center, located at Bldg. 34, has several upcoming events. For more information, the Center can be reached at ext. 4014 and is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- Saturday, February 5: New York Museum Excursion Bus Trip. Transportation only is provided at \$25 per person. Stops will be made at both the Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Entrance fees for the museums are payable at the door. (Natural History: \$16/adult, \$9/child). (Metropolitan: \$20/Adult, \$10/child). The group will depart from Picatinny at 9 a.m. and everyone will have 5.5 hours of free time in the City. In New York, group members may shop, go sightseeing or visit the museums.
- Feb. 16: New Jersey Devil Group Night. Upper level tickets and a \$10 food coupon are available to see the Devils play the Carolina Hurricanes. One ticket and the coupon, a \$69 value, costs \$38. The deadline is Feb. 9.
- · Saturday, February 19: Atlantic City Bus Trip. The group will have six hours of free time. The bus departs Picatinny at 8 a.m. The casino destination and package has yet to be announced. This is also the weekend of the Classic Car Show at the Atlantic City Convention Center. \$28 per person. The group will return to Picatinny at 7:30 p.m.

- Oct. 8-15: Fall Foliage Cruise on the Norwegian Jewel: Picatinny is sponsoring a group tour for a seven day Canada and New England cruise. Departure from New York, and the group will visit Sydney, Nova Scotia, Halifax, Saint John, Bay of Fundy and Portland, Maine. Prices start at \$849.66 per person/ double occupancy.
- April 4-9: Nashville, Tennessee Trip. For six days and five nights, those interested will travel via motor coach, included are full, hot breakfasts every morning, three dinners that will include the Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theatre, performances at the Grand Ole Opry and Texas Trebadour Theatre. Additional stops: the Wildhouse Saloon where members can learn to Line Dance, the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Belle Meade Planation.

Cost is \$705 per person double occupancy, \$895.00 per person single occupancy or \$695 per person for triple occupancy. The return will be midday April 9. Everything but lunches, three dinners and one breakfast plus hotel and driver gratuities are included in this trip. A minimum deposit of 50 percent is due at the time of sign-up. Final payment is due March 1.

• Mountain Creek Ski Lift tickets: On weekends or holidays, adults pay \$54 per ticket while children ages 7-18 pay \$39. On weekdays, adults pay \$39 per ticket while children ages 7-18 pay \$29.

Town Hall puts spotlight on employee achievements

Continued from Page 1

concept.

Systems engineering was also a hot topic. The Army science and technology community is continuing to develop more integrated, holistic capabilities, in which system engineering is an important component.

Systems engineering refers to engineering with a "horizontal"

view of technology across the enterprise, as the Honorable Malcolm R. O'Neill, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, said at the 27th Army Science Conference in November.

For example, instead of focusing on one area, such as transmissions or tanks, scientists can integrate with other fields such

as electrical engineers, so get a more holistic view of the weapon system as a whole.

ARDEC has been designated by its parent command, the Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) as the executive agent for establishing and instilling systems engineering best practices and principles throughout the command.

SCIENTISTS HONORED FOR STELLAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Among the awards presented, Melendez recognized ARDEC team member Mark Oetken for receiving the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award, the highest ranking joint civilian service award under the approval authority of the Combatant Commanders and head of joint organizations. Any higher award would require approval of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff or the Secretary of Defense.

Oetken was presented the award Nov. 13 in Kabul, Afghanistan, by Marine Col. Peter Ferraro, Operations Director for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan. The award was presented to Oetken on behalf of Gen. David H. Petraeus, U.S. Forces Afghanistan and International Security Assistance Force commander, and Maj. Gen. Tim McHale, Director of Personnel, Logistics and Resources, Multi-National Force-Iraq.

The award recognizes Oetken for his civilian service as chief scientist in the Science and Technology Office, Headquarters, US Forces-Afghanistan during protracted combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from June 2010 to December 2010.

During his deployment, Oetken provided technical support for hundreds of systems and was crucial to transitioning and fielding new technologies.

He played a vital role in bringing technologies on board for dismounted combat operations such as: Vallon VMR2 handheld metal detectors coupled to ground penetrating radar, Keyhole, remote controlled operating systems and explosive ordnance disposal optics suites for Infantry and Route Clearance Packages and dismounted CREW (counter remote control IED electronic warfare) and Wolfhound Signals Intelligence Systems, to name just a few.

He was also instrumental in ensuring the selection and delivery of a \$480.77 million wide area surveillance technologies package for the ISAF commander.

These technologies will help defeat the IED network and save lives.

Oetken also found a solution for translating court documents quickly among Dari, Pastun and English languages.

This helped ISAF's counter-

Other awards were the 2009 Army Research and Development Achievement Awards. Twenty-nine ARDEC scientists were awarded plaques for eight projects.

The winning projects and scientists are:

1. I-20 Expedient Materiel Solution Development for the Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Survivability Armor Technology Objective:

Richard Fong, LaMar Thompson, **Robert Koch**

2. Lethal Unmanned Aerial Sys-

Barry Schwartz, Lloyd Khuc, Velan Mudaliar, Mark E. Wessel, **Atmin Purohit:**

3. Dual Color Optical Retroscope: Paul Willson, V. Swaminathan, Gabriel Chan, Maj. Brian E Souhan, Deepak Bupathi

4. The Advance Hardened Combined Effects Warhead for the Medium Range Munition:

Jeffrey Kraft, David Pfau, Daniel

5. Implementation of Reduced Sensitivity Explosives to Replace TNT and Composition B:

Sanjeev Singh, Philip Samuels, Anthony DiStasio, Chandrark Patel 6. NOL-130G: The First Lead-Free STAB Initiation Mixture:

Neha Mehta, Karl D. Oyler, Gartung Cheng, Emily Cordaro

7. Explosive Bonding and Machining Technologies:

Frank Campo, Mark Miller, William de Rosse

Round Counter: Mark A. Johnson, Mark A. Dox-

beck

8. Energy Harvesting Electronic

insurgency efforts by ensuring the openness and transparency in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan justice system.

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Picatinny trainer regains competitive instincts through powerlifting sport

BY MARK SANCHEZ

Picatinny Public Affairs

Kelli Falotico, a recreation specialist at Picatinny, took up powerlifting relatively recently but has already demonstrated the power of commitment.

On Dec. 4 and 5, Falotico placed second in the Raw Division in the American Open, a powerlifting competition in Philadelphia and a culmination of months of hard work after she realized there was a certain void in her life.

The certified trainer had noticed a glaring lack of motivation since she stopped playing sports after high school. Though she lifted weights there was no incentive to lift more or get stronger.

One day, her trainer informed her of powerlifting, an exhausting sport which judges competitors on how many pounds they can lift in a variety of ways. Shortly after, she entered her first competition but only competed in the bench press (lifting a barbell from the chest while lying flat), which she won.

In her most recent competition, Falotico entered herself in all three competitions: the bench press, the squat (standing tall, bending at the knees and returning to the standing position with a barbell on the upper back), and the deadlift (lifting a barbell from the ground).

At her first ever meet competing in

all three events, Falotico placed second overall, beating far more experienced lifters from mostly New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

"(Competing in all three events) was so much harder, and I know I can do better the next time." Falotico said.

Each competitor was allowed three lift attempts per event, but she was unsure about how much energy she would have left after each lift.

"I didn't know my strengths yet, each lift was a sort of trial and error," she said.

Falotico benched 155 pounds, squatted 160 pounds ("which is pathetic," she said), and was able to deadlift 275 pounds.

Despite her disappointment with the meet, she called it a great experience.

"The atmosphere was incredible. There were a ton of people, and it was just so intense. I just had to get in my mindset and go for it.

"I could've done so much better. Now that I'm practicing more and I'm becoming more familiar with my strengths, I think I can come in first next time," she said.

That time for Falotico will be a powerlifting meet in March, and after that perhaps a national competition.

Falotico will continue as far as she can in the sport, as it's filling its purpose in her life perfectly.

"It definitely gives me the rush and the adrenaline that I've missed since high school," she said. "Especially in this competition, with the three events when you're on the edge and you don't know how much vou can do or how much you can lift or how much your adrenaline's going to help you - that rush is what was missing from my life."

For this competition, she trained

three times per week with her coach, James Benemerito, at the Elite Tactical Mixed Martial Arts School in Mount Olive, N.J., along with doing cardio on her off days.

For her next competition, Falotico has radically altered her training regiment and has big plans for each event.

"I'm making a whole new lifting schedule and a new game plan for off days," she said. "I want to lose weight and drop

Photo by Erin Usawicz

A second place finish in a national competition gave Falotico validation about her relatively new sport.

down to a new weight class, which is ridiculously hard when you want to eat after a workout. There're new things I know I'm capable of doing which I'm definitely setting out to do."

With each goal that Falotico sets out to accomplish, she has received supportive comments.

"Everyone always asks how I'm doing and they always congratulate me. It's really cool how people really seem to care."



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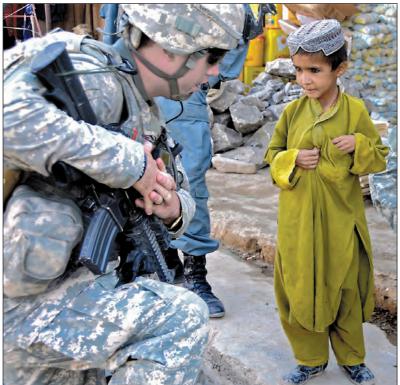


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U.S. Army: 2010 Year in Photos







Above left: Sgt. Larry J. Isbell, representing the National Guard, watches his firing lane for targets during the M-4 Range Qualification event during the Department of the Army's 10th annual Best Warrior Competition held at Fort Lee, Va., Oct. 21, 2010. Above right: Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, holds the U.S. flag at the 111th Army Navy game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia on Dec. 11, 2010.

DEPARTMENT OF **DEFENSE PHOTOS**

Left: 1st Lt. Matthew Hilderbrand from the 4th Infantry Regiment talks with an Afghan boy through an interpreter during a patrol at a bazaar in the Zabul Province, Afghanistan, June 29, 2010.



A military working dog wears his Doggles, his assigned Personal Protective Equipment to protect his eyes, as a Chinook Helicopter takes off, kicking up dust and debris, during an Air Assault operation May 11, 2010 in Parwan Province, Afghanistan.







 $Pfc.\ Brialynn\ Lanteigne\ provides\ security\ in\ the\ Sabari\ District\ of\ Afghanistan.$





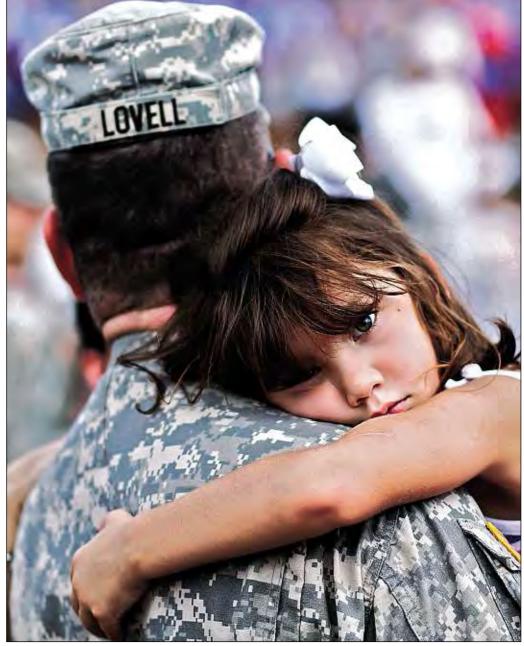
Above left: Sgt. 1st Class James Lee, aerial gunner, Bravo Co., 1-169 Aviation Reg., provides aerial security from the rear door of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, above Khost Province, Afghanistan, Feb 24, 2010. Above right: Sgt. Jason Stevens, with the 40th Infantry Division Agricultural Development Team, California Army National Guard, helps an Afghan boy and his father gather their sheep so they can receive treatment at the Veterinary Civil Action Program held at Barbur Village, Chowkay District, Konar Province, Afghanistan, May 2, 2010.



Hundreds of people gather at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day.



Drill sergeants count pull-ups during the first event of phase one of the Best Sapper Competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. The competition gives engineers throughout the Army the opportunity to compete in a grueling six-phase and three-day competition to determine the best engineers in the Army.



Five-year-old Maddie Lovell clings to her father, Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Lovell, of 585th Military Police Company, during a welcome home ceremony at Marysville High School, in Marysville, Ohio, Aug. 13, 2010.

Picatinny Arsenal's Child Youth and School Services will hold an open house for the full day kindergarten program on Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Bldg. 3156 on Schrader Road.

Persons interested can visit the classroom, take a tour and ask the staff members questions, along with enjoying light refreshments.

The program has before-and-after care services, opening at 7 a.m. and closing at 5:30 p.m. each day. Breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack are provided daily.

The class is taught by a certified teacher and the maximum enrollment is 20 students. Additional staffing is engaged throughout the day.

Registration for military families begins Feb. 10, while civilian and contractor registration begins Feb. 24. A \$100 non-refundable deposit is due upon registration and will be deducted from the first tuition payment.

Children must be five years old by Oct. 1, 2011 to register. More information is available by calling 973-724-5555.

Summer camp lottery applications begin Jan. 26

Picatinny's 2011 Summer Camp Program for children finishing kindergarten through middle school will begin accepting lottery applications on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

The camp will run for nine consecutive weeks beginning June 20. Camp activities include swimming and swim and lessons at Frog Falls, arts and crafts, sports, 4-H Clubs, Boys and Girls Club activities, weekly field trips and special events.

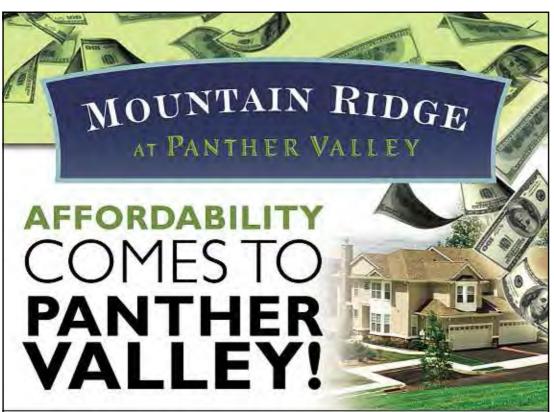
Lottery applications must be returned to building 3156 and placed in the lottery box in an unmarked white business size envelope between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Jan. 26 until close of business Feb. 9.

Applications will not be accepted through the mail or by e-mail. The lottery drawing will be held Feb. 10 at 9 a.m. in building 3156.

Patrons eligible for the Summer Camp Program include active duty military members (who do not need to go in the lottery, but need to sign up at building 3156 by Feb. 10), Department of Defense civilians and DoD contractors (who work at Picatinny) in that order of priority.

For more information including fees for the camp, call the School Age Services at 973-724-5555 or visit the School Age Services Web site: http://www.pica.army.mil/mwr/CYS/CYShomepage.htm.

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EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER

Exceptional family member program launches 2011 awareness campaign

BY MARCI KECK AND ERIC KOWAL

With the overwhelming positive response to last year's Autism Awareness Campaign, Army Community Service's Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and the Public Affairs Office have organized a full year of campaigns for 2011.

Each month will feature a *Picatinny Voice* article and information, along with resources on the EFMP Web page focused on different special needs awareness, starting with January recognizing Birth Defects Prevention Month.

The Department of Defense EFMP is a mandatory enrollment program that works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated community support, housing, and educational, medical, and personnel services to families with special/exceptional needs.

Approximately 150,000 children born every year in the United States are affected by one or more birth defects. Although the cause of more than 60 percent of birth defects are unknown, there are several preventive measures that a mother can take regarding the well being of a developing baby.

Awareness and education are the first steps to preventing birth defects, followed by action. There are a number of things mothers can do to increase the probability of having a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby.

Here are tips to prevent birth defects as mothers contemplate starting or adding to a family:

- The first and foremost tip is maintaining preconception health; eating well balanced and nutritional meals, and taking a multivitamin daily that includes the recommended 400 mcg of folic acid.
- Avoid all activities that could potentially lead to birth defects including the consumption of alcohol, use of tobacco, illicit drugs, and/or caffeine.
- Get an annual gynecological and wellness exam.
- Obtain genetic counseling and birth defect screening, particularly if you have a family history of birth defects or if you are 35 years of age or older.
- Help your family and/or friends who might be considering parenthood by informing them that January is Birth Defects Prevention Month.

For more information on birth defects, please visit the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) webpage at http://www.pica.army.mil/mwr/ACS/EFMP.htm or contact the EFMP Manager, Marci Keck, at 973-724-2145 or marci.keck@us.army.mil.



Key facility for propellant production highly efficient, less costly

BY PETER BONNETT AND MICA MC GHEE-BEY

Munitions Engineering Technology Center

The Army achieved a significant milestone this September at Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Va., with the transition of a new acid production facility that will greatly improve production processes for the "building blocks" of nearly all conventional military propellants.

Formally named the Nitric Acid Concentrator and Sulfuric Acid Concentrator (NAC/SAC), the facility produces strong nitric and sulfuric acids for the production of nitrocellulose, a fundamental acid in powering projectiles for firearms and artillery.

HIGH VOLUME FACILITY

Radford is a critical facility within the National Technology and Industrial Base that produces nitrocellulose and various solvent-based and solventless propellants. In fact, it is the only facility worldwide that produces nitrocellulose at the large quantities required to support our warfighters.

"The NAC/SAC represents one of the Army's strategic modernization projects aimed at developing a modern and efficient ammunition industrial base to provide America's warfighters with the decisive edge today and in the future," said Lt. Col. Antonio Munera, Radford plant commander.



An outdoor view of the nitric and sulfuric acid concentrator facility at Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Va. The new facility requires 50 percent less steam and 15 percent less electricity to operate. Moreover, it reduces the level of nitrogen oxide air emissions by 80 percent. Courtesy photo.

The new \$118 million, state-of-the-art NAC/SAC facility and acid area tank farm was managed under the leadership of Bishara Elmasri from the Project Manager for Joint Services, Program Executive Office for Ammunition at Picatinny Arsenal

HIGH EFFICIENCY PLANT

Technical support was provided by the Energetics Producibility and Manufacturing Technology Division at the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC).

The NAC/SAC Integrated Project Team was jointly headed by Larry Sotsky, representing ARDEC, and Johnny Yu, representing Alliant Techsystems, the operating contractor for the Radford plant.

Government team members included Wayne Miller and Mica Mc Ghee-Bey from ARDEC and William Glover from Radford.

The new facility is highly efficient,

requiring 50 percent less steam and 15 percent less electricity to operate.

It also eliminates the use of natural gas, reduces nitrogen oxide air emissions by 80 percent, and reduces the volume of nitrate wastewater discharge volume by 35 percent.

ENVIRONMENTALLY COMPLIANT

The facility vastly improves the quality of the work environment for operators and provides a safe, environmentally compliant and reliable operation for producing high-quality acids for propellant production.

The facility has a design life exceeding 25 years with a significantly reduced annual operating cost.

Implementation of the NAC/SAC facility is one success in a series of acid area modernization projects that also included upgrades to the acid storage tank farm, the ammonium oxidation plant, and the acid transfer lines.

PROGRAMS PENDING

Other major programs to be executed at RFAAP aim to bring the production processes and technology into the 21st century.

They include implementation of a modernized nitrocellulose facility (design complete), single and multi-base propellant lines, a solvent-less propellant line, and nitroglycerin manufacturing facilities.



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ARDEC squeezes in solution for Soldiers in cramped MRAP

BY TRACY ROBILLARD

Picatinny Public Affairs

Duct tape, bungee cords, straps, netting, plywood. Do these items sound like safe and secure ways to store 200 pounds of ammunition on a combat vehicle in the middle of a war zone?

For years, Soldiers have relied on their own makeshift methods to secure ammo containers inside Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, because they were not provided with any other solution. Virtually every cubic inch within an MRAP is occupied with mission essential equipment, making ammunition stowage a challenge.

The situation posed several problems. Once Soldiers cut the straps or removed the bungee cords, it was difficult (and sometimes impossible) to re-secure the ammo again, especially during the hectic and rapid pace of combat. Moreover, if a roadside bomb or an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonated, loose ammunition containers inside the vehicle could trigger a disaster.

But as a result of the innovation and expertise of the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC), Soldiers are now using an Army-approved ammo stowage system that is safe, reliable and effective.

The system is called MARS, which stands for Modular Ammunition Restraint System. ARDEC has already sent more than 700 into combat zones. But that is only the beginning. The Army estimates that several thousand MARS will be sent to Iraq and Afghanistan within the next year.

DESIGN PROVIDES SAFER STOWAGE

Essentially, MARS is a custom-engineered bag, similar to a camera bag or backpack that holds standard metal ammunition containers. Inside the bag is a steel, L-shaped bracket that not only supports the weight of a full ammunition box (about 50 pounds), but it also provides a strong surface for mounting the bag to a custom interface rail, another component of the MARS system.

Additionally, the adjustable hook and loop closures and specially-designed buckle allow Soldiers to tailor MARS for smaller ammunition containers.

"The buckle used is called the 'Cobra' and is manufactured by Austi-Alpin," said Mike Ivankoe, an inventor of the MARS design who works in ARDEC's Packaging Division.

"It's widely used in both military and mountaineering applications as it is extremely strong, reliable and easy to operate," Ivankoe added. "The design allows Soldiers to easily open, close and adjust it with gloves on or in the dark."

Manufactured by Black Hawk Products, MARS is made of commercially available, easy-to-manufacture materials, another reason the invention was prototyped and mass-produced quickly. MARS is a government-developed and government-owned design that has been submitted for a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

FROM BLUEPRINT TO BATTLEFIELD

The story of MARS began in November 2009 when ARDEC received a request from Soldiers in the field for better ammo stowage. Because loose ammo containers presented a risk of injury in the event of an IED blast or vehicle rollover, the Army sought an effective and timely

The ARDEC team, including the Packaging and Future Concepts Division, Warfighter Central and the Quick Reaction Cell, responded immediately. Funding was provided through the efforts of the Quick Reaction Cell and RDE-COM's Forward Advisory Team for Science and Technology (FAST) office.

"We had an RG-31 at Picatinny, so we immediately went to the vehicle and spent hours inside it talking about our ideas," Ivankoe said. "We thought about shelves or collapsible racks. But then Lt. Col. Glenn Dean (currently PM for Bradley Fighting Vehicles) mentioned the concept of a bag, and the design just took off from there."

The three inventors of MARS-Ivankoe, Col. Dean and Peggy Wilson, ARDEC Senior Packaging Engineer,fashioned an initial blueprint design in one weekend.

Within three months, ARDEC sent a working prototype to Afghanistan for Soldier feedback. This timeline is nearly unheard of in the world of research, development and acquisition. But because ARDEC used innovative thinking with in-house and industry resources, the prototype came together quickly.

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Mike Ivankoe and Peggy Wilson, along with Lt. Col. Glenn Dean (not pictured) were the three inventors of the Modular Ammunition Restraint System. Right: MARS is a custom-engineered bag, similar to a camera bag or backpack that holds standard metal ammunition containers. Army photo.

The Joint Program Office for MRAP has also been a key partner to the success of MARS. After the first MARS prototype came back along with excellent Soldier feedback, JPO-MRAP helped secure a Joint Urgent Operational Needs Statement, or JUONS - a necessary milestone to fund and field a new product.

"JPO-MRAP enabled ARDEC's innovation to become a reality for the warfighter," Ivankoe said. "Jennifer Johnson, Chief Engineer Vehicle Systems, JPO-MRAP, and Brian Ernst, Vehicle System Engineer, JPO-MRAP have been excellent partners in giving the project high priority to meet the urgent need."

The team made several design revisions to MARS based on input from Soldiers and load exercises conducted on MRAP variants. The final design was tested for high G-force shock survivability using an in-house fixture designed and modeled by Rob Kim, a senior packaging engineer who works within Ivankoe's group.

The next step was determining the best place to mount the interface rail inside the RG-31. The problem: Vehicles are already cramped. There was no simple solution.

JPO-MRAP arranged for General Dynamics Land Systems, the original equipment manufacturer of the RG-31, to study optimal placement of MARS, including repositioning some equipment.



The manufacturer was also tasked to design the interface rail specifically for the

With these modifications, the team incorporated the MARS interface rail (which holds three MARS) into the current production of RG-31 vehicles.

"Kyle Bruner, JPO-MRAP and project manager for RG-31, has been a tremendous help in integrating MARS into the vehicle," Ivankoe said. "He and his team were just as committed to the project as we were."

ARDEC is supplying more than 700 MARS to be installed on 250 newlyarrived RG-31 vehicles in theater.

The team is also developing an interface rail for the M-ATV and Caiman MRAPs, among other variants.

Further updates to MARS include the development of a jumbo-sized MARS that can hold much larger ammunition containers. The team is constantly looking for ways to expand, retrofit and integrate the invention to maximize Soldier benefit.

"MARS is a perfect example of how teamwork, motivation and a drive to achieve results can bring a much needed technology to our Soldiers in recordbreaking time," Ivankoe said.

ICE focus for January is on garrison's Installation Safety Office During the month of January, Picatinny, and oversees the Oc-Picatinny Interactive Customer cupational Safety and Health Evaluation (ICE) asks that you Program (OSHA) executed by focus your comments on the In-Chugach Industries. The ICE site is at stallation Safety Office although your are also encouraged to use

ICE for all 50 services. The Installation Safety Office develops, manages and executes the explosive safety program for https://ice.disa.mil/index. cfm?Fa=site&site id=401

ICE is a web-based program that collects feedback on the services provided by various Garri-

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